border at Sitamarhi (Bihar) on September 19 last; if so, from where the uranium was stolen; who is responsible for the security arrangements there and also the persons said to be involved;

(b) the number of cases of uranium theft (in various forms) have come to notice as yet, the countries where the stuff is supposed to have been taken to, the number of operating gangs, how much worth of uranium has been lost as yet, thus;

(c) the number of prosecutions launched in such cases and against how many persons with details thereof;

(d) what is the number which have been sentenced to jail; and

(e) measures taken to strengthen the security and to severely punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. However, it has not been established that what was seized from the businessman was actually uranium.

(b) to (e) Necesary information is being collected from the Excise Department of the Bihar Government.

Disappearance of an engineer of Tarapur Atomic Plant

1548. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India dated the 4th October, 1988 and state whether Mr. A. V. Patil has been done away with by persons who are alleged to be interested in misappropriation and thefts in Tarapur Atomic Power Station; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiries have been undertaken and what is the truth in these allegations and how such security of sensitive area is being protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, AND ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Shri A. V. Patil, who was working in Tarapur Atomic Power Station as Scientific Assistant from 10-4-1987, left the plant site on 7-9-1987 with the permission of his superiors. A complaint that he was missing was duly lodged with the police authorities. The facts were also communicated to the Missing Persons Bureau, Bombay and were also telecast on Bombay Doordarshan. There is no evidence that Shri Patil was done away with by some persons.

Launching of ISRO

1549. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Sunday Observer dated the 17th July to 23rd July, 1988 under the caption 'The Warning ISRO ignored' and if so, what are the facts in this connection; and

(b) whether it is a fact that launching of the vehicle failed because of adverse gravitational pull in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, AND ELECTRONICS

AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The news item has been seen. Minor gravitational anomaly exists in most of the launch sites in the world including Sriharikota. The magnitude of gravitation force anomalies which is one-twenty-thousandth of a 'g' is negligibly small to affect the rocket trajectories which are designed to take off against the full gravitational force and reach a velocity of over 7 5 km/second Such an anomaly can at best affect the final velocity by 1 metre/second in the value of 7.5 km/second. There is no question of ASLV flights failing due to the minor gravitational anomalies at Sriharikota.

Howitzer Gun deal with Bofors

1550. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Indian Express dated 17th September, 1988 referring to the statement appearing in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Bofors regarding the term of credit for Howitzer gun deal by the President of Swedish Export Credit Board, Mr. Harry Schein; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press report in question is inaccurate.

Memorandum submitted by employees of Indian Red Cross Society

1551 SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a memorandum submitted to the President of the Delhi Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society recently by its employees, gross irregularities and malpractices in the organisation have been alleged;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry if any, made by Government into the allegations and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) According to the information received from the Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, no such memorandum has been submitted to the President of the Delhi branch of the Indian Red Cross Society.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Crash on AN-32 aircraft near Kanpur

1552. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an AN-32 aircraft of Air Research Centre crashed recently near Shivrajpur in Kanpur district killing all the occupants;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the accident and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) An AN-32 aircraft, on a routine flight from Agra to Bhubaneswar, crashed about 21 nautical miles north of Kanpur on 4-11-88 at approximately 1525 hrs.